
Introduced by Senator Simitian

May 22, 2012

Senate Joint Resolution No. 27—Relative to breast cancer.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 27, as introduced, Simitian. Are You Dense Day.

This measure would recognize August 8, 2012, as “Are You Dense?” Day 2012, to raise awareness of the risks associated with breast density and the potential benefits of other screening tools to supplement mammography.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The National Cancer Institute estimates that one
2 in eight women will develop breast cancer in her lifetime and breast
3 cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in women; and
4 WHEREAS, 40 percent of women who get a mammogram have
5 dense breast tissue; and
6 WHEREAS, Women who have dense breast tissue have a four
7 to six times greater risk of developing breast cancer compared to
8 women of the same age and health, and are twice as likely to
9 develop breast cancer compared to women of the same age and
10 health who have a first degree relative with breast cancer; and
11 WHEREAS, Research has shown that, using mammography
12 alone, up to 75 percent of cancer is missed in women who have
13 dense breast tissue and dense breast tissue is the most common
14 reason a mammogram fails to detect cancer; and
15 WHEREAS, Although dense breast tissue is routinely observed,
16 characterized, and communicated between doctors as a part of a
17 mammogram examination, doctors speak to less than 9 percent of

1 women about breast density and 95 percent of women do not know
2 their breast density; and

3 WHEREAS, Medical research has shown that the rate of breast
4 cancer detection in women with dense breast tissue increases
5 substantially when breast cancer screening methods, such as
6 ultrasound or magnetic resonance imaging, are used to supplement
7 mammography; and

8 WHEREAS, Patient knowledge of breast tissue density has the
9 potential to spare many women the tremendous physical and
10 emotional suffering and financial strain associated with the
11 treatment of advanced breast cancer and can reduce the cost of
12 treating breast cancer by facilitating a diagnosis earlier and
13 allowing treatment to begin when the cancers are smaller and more
14 easily treatable; and

15 WHEREAS, Breast density information should be shared with
16 the patient before the patient and doctor can begin informed
17 discussions regarding the most appropriate and effective breast
18 cancer screening approaches for each individual patient; now,
19 therefore, be it

20 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*
21 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature recognizes August 8, 2012,
22 as “Are You Dense?” Day 2012, in order to raise awareness of the
23 risks associated with breast density and the potential benefits of
24 other screening tools to supplement mammography for women
25 with dense breast tissue; and be it further

26 *Resolved,* That the Legislature encourages all state legislatures
27 throughout the United States to recognize August 8, 2012, as “Are
28 You Dense?” Day 2012, thereby acknowledging the importance
29 of breast density information in the United States and the world;
30 and be it further

31 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
32 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.